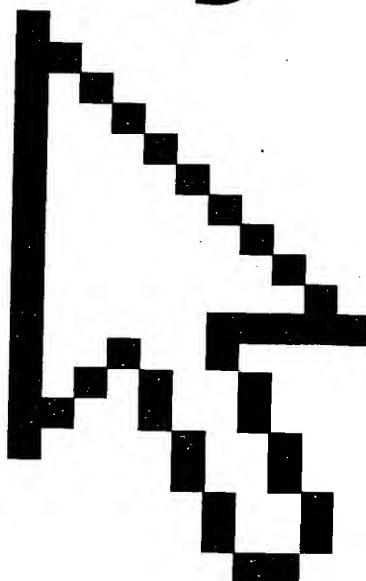


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Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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page break *n.* The point at which the flow of text in a document moves to the top of a new page. Most word processors automatically place page breaks when the material on the page reaches a specified maximum. By contrast, a “hard” or “manual” page break is a command or a code inserted by the user to force a page break at a specific place in the text. *See also* form feed.

paged address *n.* In the 80386, i486, and Pentium paged memory architecture, an address in memory created by combining the processes of segment translation and page translation. In the paged-memory scheme, which requires that the microprocessor’s paging feature be enabled, logical addresses are transformed into physical addresses in two steps: segment translation and page translation. The first step, segment translation, converts a logical to a linear address—an address that refers indirectly to a physical address. After the linear address is obtained, the microprocessor’s paging hardware converts the linear address to a physical address by specifying a page table (an array of 32-bit page specifiers), a page (a 4-KB unit of contiguous addresses within physical memory) within that table, and an offset within that page. This information collectively refers to a physical address.

page-description language *n.* A programming language, such as PostScript, that is used to describe output to a printer or a display device, which then uses the instructions from the page-description language to construct text and graphics to create the required page image. Page-description languages are like other computer languages, with logical program flow allowing for sophisticated manipulation of the output. A page-description language, like a blueprint, sets out specifications (as for fonts and type sizes) but leaves the work of drawing characters and graphics to the output device itself. Because this approach delegates the detail work to the device that produces the output, a page-description language is machine-independent. These abilities come at a price, however. Page-description languages require printers with processing power and memory comparable to, and often exceeding, that of personal computers. *Acronym:* PDL. *See also* PostScript.

paged memory management unit *n.* A hardware unit that performs tasks related to accessing and managing

memory used by different applications or by virtual-memory operating systems. *Acronym:* PMMU.

Page Down key *n.* A standard key (often labeled “PgDn”) on most computer keyboards whose specific meaning is different in different programs. In many cases, it moves the cursor down to the top of the next page or a specific number of lines.

page fault *n.* The interrupt that occurs when software attempts to read from or write to a virtual memory location that is marked “not present.” The mapping hardware of a virtual memory system maintains status information about every page in the virtual address space. A page either is mapped onto a physical address or is not present in physical memory. When a read or write to an unmapped virtual address is detected, the memory management hardware generates the page fault interrupt. The operating system must respond to the page fault by swapping in the data for the page and updating the status information in the memory management unit. *See also* page (definition 2), swap (definition 2), virtual memory.

page frame *n.* A physical address to which a page of virtual memory may be mapped. In a system with 4096-byte pages, page frame 0 corresponds to physical addresses 0 through 4095. *See also* paging, virtual memory.

page-image buffer *n.* Memory in a page printer used to hold the bit map (image) of a page as the printer’s raster image processor builds the page and as the printer produces the page. *See also* page printer, raster image processor.

page-image file *n.* A file containing the necessary code for a printer or other display device to create the page or screen image. *See also* PostScript.

page-jacking *n.* A deceptive practice that detours Web visitors from legitimate sites generated as search engine results to copycat Web pages, from which they will be redirected to pornographic or other unwanted sites. Page-jacking is accomplished by copying the contents and metatags of a Web page, altering its title and content so that, on search results, it displays before the original, and then submitting the copied page to search engines. When clicking on the link to the copied site, the visitor will instead be redirected to an unwanted and unrelated site. *See also* metatag. *Compare* mousetrapping.

